Fírst Sunday of Lent St. John the Baptíst Catholic Church

402 South Kirkland Drive (River Road) P. O. Box 248, Brusly, L

OFFICE: 225-749-2189 WEBSITE: sjb-brusly.com CHRISTIAN FORMATION: 225-749-3387

February 18, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	
Sunday	
Friday8:	00 a.m., with Adoration until 11:30 a.m.
First Saturday of the month only	

RECONCILIATION

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Arun John, IMS	Pastor
Dana Babin	
Candice Breaux	Youth Group Minister
June Hebert	Director of Religious Education
Sara Hernandez	Janitorial
Jayne Jason	Child Protection
Layne Mire	Parish Secretary
Lil Stutes	Mother's Day Out
Celeste Veillon	Music Director

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Office closed for lunch 12:00–1:00 p.m. P. O. Box 248, Brusly, Louisiana 70719

BAPTISM

Volume 56, No. 7

Celebrated monthly after the 11:00 am Mass and also celebrated after the 11:00am Mass on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord and Easter Sunday. Parents should call the office to enroll in our baptismal preparation program, preferably early in pregnancy. Parents are encouraged to register in the parish and actively practice their faith.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Inquiries: Please call Carolyn Dupuy, 225-276-6269.

MARRIAGE

Contact the Pastor at least 6 months prior to proposed wedding date. Preparation program is required. Couples should be actively practicing their faith.

CARE OF THE SICK

Emergency calls answered as soon as possible. Communion calls to homebound weekly by request. Please notify the office if someone is homebound.

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Family should contact the Pastor to begin funeral arrangements. For Cemetery information, please call Jerry Deshotel 225-281-0333.

PRAYER LINE

Please call Carolyn Dupuy, 225-276-6269.



Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel, the temptation account of Jesus shows that He felt the same inner tension between flesh and the spirit that we all feel. He experienced the same inner conflict between right and wrong that we experience. In other words, Jesus' temptation shows that He was truly human, just as we are. That is why St. Paul in his letter to the Hebrews says, "We have a high priest who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin." The difference between Jesus and us, is though we are prone to sin in times of temptation, Jesus did not sin. Jesus reacted to the devil differently than we do. He did not hesitate or waiver to say "NO" to the luring of the devil. He stood firmly in the face of temptation. Look at the way He reacted to the devil's ways in the Gospel of Matthew, which gives us the following complete report of Jesus' temptation:

- The first temptation of Jesus was the devil asking him to turn stones into bread. He could have easily turned the stones into bread and satisfied His hunger; but He refused to do it, and showed that His marvelous powers are to be used not for His personal comfort and gratification, but for others.
- Secondly, the devil took Jesus to the holy city and made Him stand on the parapet of the Temple and said, "If you are the son of God, throw yourself down." Jesus refused to do this, and showed that He didn't have to show off to exhibit His powers to attract the attention of the people. He came not to be served, but to serve.
- Finally, Jesus was taken up to a high mountain, and the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and said, "All these I will give you, if you will adore me." Jesus refused to kneel before the devil, and demonstrated that He would not negotiate with evil.

So, we see that although Jesus was tempted like us, He resisted all the temptations and kept Himself free from sin. We, on the other hand, succumb to the devil's luring rather than resisting it. When Tom was six years old, he was traveling with his father, when his father was stopped for speeding. His father slipped the officer a twenty-dollar bill with his license and said, "It is okay, son. Everyone does it." When Tom was nine years old, he went shopping with his mother. The cashier accidentally gave her too much change. As she slipped the extra money in her wallet, she whispered to her son, "Everyone does it." When Tom was sixteen years old, he landed his first summer job at a supermarket. One of his jobs was to put the overripe tomatoes at the bottom of the basket and the greener ones on top. His boss told him, "It's good for business." Then, when Tom was eighteen years old, he went to college. One day he was approached by another student and asked if he wanted to buy test answers. He did and was subsequently caught cheating, and was sent home. His parents were disappointed and said, "How could you have done such a dishonest thing? If there is anything that the adult world cannot tolerate, it is a person who is dishonest."

This is the way we sometimes react to temptations of evil. We succumb to evil, rather than resisting it and thus directly or indirectly influence others to also be tempted. Today, as we contemplate the temptations of Jesus, and the way Jesus dealt with the situation, let us look into our own lives and see in what areas we are often tempted, and how do we react to such situations in our lives. Remember that Jesus our Savior was tempted in every way, but stood against all evil, and He is there with us to stand by the truth and resist all evil.

We are now in the season of Lent, pray that Jesus will help us in resisting every evil that confronts us in our daily lives.

May God Bless You, Fr. John

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Youth Group for Middle School & High School students will be on Sunday, February 25th & March 24th in the Activity Center. Middle School students will meet from 4:00pm-5:30pm. High School students will meet from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

<u>Religion Mass</u> for students K-4 will be held on Monday, March 11th at 5:30pm. There will be no religion classes for K-4 on March 12th & 13th.

<u>7th & 8th Grade Confessions</u> will be heard during their regular class time of 7:00pm-8:15pm in the Activity Center on Monday, March 11th.

5th & 6th Grade Confessions will be heard during their regular class time of 5:15pm-6:30pm in the Activity Center on Tuesday, March 12th.

The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of Caitlyn Clouatre.



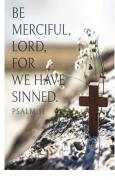
<u>Lenten Mission</u> At the 6:00pm Mass on Wednesday, <u>February 21st</u>, Father Babu Vareeth will speak on Healing.

At the 6:00pm Mass on Wednesday, <u>February 28th</u>, Father Tomi Thomas will speak on the Eucharist.

At the 6:00pm Mass on Wednesday, <u>March 6th</u> Father Matthew Dunn will speak on Forgiveness.

Pray for Vocations During Lent we pray, fast and give alms. Is the Lord inviting you as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? If this prayer is being answered by you, please contact Father Josh Johnson at 225-336-8778 or email him: jjohnson@diobr.org or visit: www.diobr.org/vocations







Children's Church during 9:00am & 11:00am Sunday Masses March 3rd & 17th

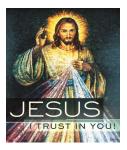
We need helpers for 9:00am & 11:00am Masses. Please call Jayne Jason, 225-749-3387, to help in this ministry.



<u>Stations of the Cross</u> will follow 12:00pm Mass on Fridays during Lent. Confessions will be heard before 12:00 Mass.

Divine Mercy Novena & Mass

Every Wednesday through April 3rd, our Church Parish will have Mass at 6:00pm, that will be immediately followed by the sung chaplet of the Divine Mercy Novena. This will conclude with the Feast of the Divine Mercy on Sunday, April 7th.





Prayers and Sympathy are extended to the family of Patsy Haydel Ramagos, upon her death.

Upcoming Events

<u>Operation Rice Bowl</u> can change lives! Please take a rice bowl from the back of Church and help a family in need. Please return your rice bowl by March 31st.

<u>The Eucharistic Revival</u> will be held on Thursday, February 22nd from 6:30pm–7:30pm in the Activity Center.

<u>The KCs</u> will have their Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Sunday, March 3rd from 11:00am-1:00pm in the Activity Center.

Our next <u>Baptism Seminar</u> will be held on March 6th at 6:00pm in the Church Office.

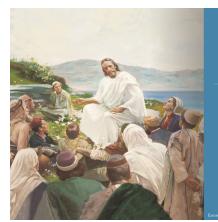
<u>Women's Ministry</u> will host a day of prayer and reflection in the Activity Center from 9:00am-2:30pm on Saturday, March 9th. Registration forms can be found in the back of Church and on their website.

> ZIPPER SALES AT 7:30AM February 22nd March 7& 21 April 4 & 18

Please note: The Zippers will be closed from March 22-April 1 for Easter. NO DONATIONS will be accepted during this time.

Stewardship of Finance Total Collection for February 4th: \$21,551.83

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1^{s⊤} SUNDAY OF LENT

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

Readings for the week of February 18, 2024

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Sunday:	Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/
·	1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/
•	Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/
•	Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday:	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15,
-	16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Happenings in our Diocese

St. John the Evangelist, Plaquemine: March 2nd Lenten Retreat, "The Holy Spirit," with Gwen Hayes from 10:30am-3:00pm in their Parish Hall

<u>St. George Catholic Church:</u> March 7th at 7:00pm, Mass & Talk on "Jesus heals the body and soul"

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church: March 9th at 9:00am, Day of prayer, fellowship & reflection for KCs & CDA

<u>Marriage Enrichment Series:</u> year-round, Together in Holiness, please call 832-779-1070 to sign up

<u>St. John the Evangelist, Prairieville:</u> March 23rd at 9:00am, Heaven or Bust family retreat

LA State Capitol: Catholic Faithful Citizenship Day is April 17th. You can learn about the work of the Catholic Bishops with the legislature. Please contact Susan Wolf, swolf@laccb.org, for more information.

